



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

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Hunter Statement Regarding President Bush's Proposal for the Treatment and Prosecution of Terrorists

Washington, D.C. --- U.S. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) today received the Bush Administration's draft proposal for the treatment and prosecution of terrorists captured and detained by the United States. The committee will hold a hearing tomorrow to consider the Administration's legislation and will move expeditiously to mark-up and pass legislation in the coming weeks.

Chairman Hunter's statement follows:

"The war against terror has produced a new type of battlefield and a new type of enemy. It's necessary at this point for Congress to develop a judicial process that will allow for the effective prosecution of captured terrorists.

"While we need to provide basic fairness in our prosecutions, we must preserve the ability of our warfighters to operate effectively on the battlefield. Balancing these two requirements means that we must pay special attention to the use of classified information, the rules of evidence, the right to counsel and the appellate process. My interest is to protect our troops on the battlefield from becoming involved in a legal quagmire which would prevent us from effectively pursuing terrorists and to ensure that America can effectively protect its citizens.

"Therefore, the House Armed Services Committee looks forward to working with President Bush and the Senate to construct a new process which strikes the necessary balance between justice and battlefield effectiveness and provides the legal standard in the coming decades of the war against terror. In particular, we don't want to create a process which results in dangerous terrorists being released to return to the battlefield.

"Our foremost consideration should be protecting American troops and American citizens."

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